

REMARKS

A. Background

Claims 17-29 were pending in the application at the time of the Office Action. The Office Action objected to claim 17. The Office Action rejected claims 28-29 as being obvious over cited prior art. Claims 17-27 were allowed. By this response, Applicants have cancelled claims 28-29 without prejudice or disclaimer¹, amended claims 17 and 25-26, and added new claim 30. As such, claims 17-27 and 30 are presented for the Examiner's consideration in light of the following remarks.

B. Proposed Amendments

Applicants have herein amended claims 17 and 25-26 and added new claim 30 to further clarify, more clearly define, and/or broaden the claimed inventions to expedite receiving a notice of allowance. The new claim and the amendments to the pending claims are supported in the specification at least by Figures 3-6, 8, 9b and 10 and the corresponding discussion in the specification, as well as by the following sections of the specification: page 15, lines 1-9; page 16, lines 25-33; page 17, lines 22-26; page 18, lines 8-24; page 19, lines 11-13; and page 22, lines 3-6. In view of the foregoing discussion, Applicants submit that the amendments to the claims do not introduce new matter and entry thereof is respectfully requested.

C. Claim Objections

The Examiner objected to claim 17 because the Examiner "believes the recited angle ranges in claim 17 refer to both the first full internal angle and the second internal angle (rather

¹ Applicants reserve the right to prosecute any cancelled claim in a subsequent divisional or continuation application.

than the first full internal angle and the second internal angle respectively)” and wanted confirmation. By this response, Applicants have amended claim 17 for clarification.

D. Rejection on the Merits

Pages 2 and 3 of the Office Action reject claims 28-29 under 35 USC § 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 7,116,476 to Suzuki et al. Claims 28-29 have been cancelled. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that the obviousness rejection of claims 28-29 is now moot and should be withdrawn.

E. Allowed Subject Matter

The Examiner’s allowance of claims 17-27 is appreciated. New claim 30 depends from independent claim 17 and thus incorporates the limitations thereof. As such, Applicants submit that claim 30 is also in condition for allowance.

With respect to the Examiner’s reasons for allowance, Applicants submit that it is the claim as a whole, rather than any particular limitation or any particular subset of limitations, that makes each of the claims allowable. No single limitation or subset of limitations should be construed as the reason for allowance of a claim because it is each of the elements of the claim that makes it allowable. Therefore, Applicants do not concede that the reasons for allowable subject matter given by the Examiner are the only reasons that make, or would make, the claims allowable and Applicants do not make any admission or concession concerning the Examiner’s statement in the Office Action.

F. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner's reconsideration and allowance of claims 17-27 and 30 as amended and presented herein.

In the event there remains any impediment to allowance of the claims which could be clarified in a telephonic interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to initiate such an interview with the undersigned.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any of the following fees that may be applicable to this communication, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 23-3178: (1) any filing fees required under 37 CFR § 1.16; (2) any patent application and reexamination processing fees under 37 CFR § 1.17; and/or (3) any post issuance fees under 37 CFR § 1.20. In addition, if any additional extension of time is required, which has not otherwise been requested, please consider this a petition therefor and charge any additional fees that may be required to Deposit Account No. 23-3178.

Dated this 24th day of March 2009.

Respectfully submitted,

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